

# French govt denies hiding drug-related birth defects study

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French health authorities are denying claims they concealed a study on a drug used to treat epilepsy that caused birth defects.

Le Canard Enchaîné weekly said the [health ministry](#) suppressed a study revealing that the drug was prescribed to more than 10,000 [pregnant women](#) between 2007 and 2014 while the potential risks for unborn children were known.

The ministry responded Wednesday that the study was launched a year ago and that its initial findings will be presented according to plans on Aug. 24 to parents whose children have been affected by the anti-convulsion drug Depakine, sold in France by pharmaceutical company Sanofi.

A study published in February estimated that there had been around 450 cases in France of children exposed to the drug during pregnancy who had congenital defects.

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